

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014401
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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE,JR:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
EUR/CE:ELAUDERDALE
DOD/J-5:COL. JOHNSON
OASD/ISA:JREED
ACDA:LFISCHER
PM/ISP:MMICHAUD
NSC STAFF:JTHOMSON

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O P 182353Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014401

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, NAC, TGEN, MARR

SUBJECT: PLANNED INCREASE IN US GROUND FORCES EUROPE
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PAGE 02 STATE 014401

REF: USNATO 273, DTG 111320Z JAN 78

YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN DISCUSSING WITH SYG
LUNS AND OTHER OFFICIALS PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT
TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL JANUARY 6 THAT QUOTE THE
NUMBER OF US SOLDIERS IN EUROPE WILL INCREASE BY MORE

THAN 8,000 IN THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, AND WE WILL SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE OUR REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. UNQUOTE. THE PRESIDENT MADE THE STATEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF DETAILING STEPS THE US HAS UNDERWAY TO CARRY OUT THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES APPROVED AT LAST MAY'S NATO SUMMIT TO PRESERVE THE CREDIBILITY OF NATO STRATEGY INTO THE 1980'S.

-- THE 8,000-MAN INCREASE IS NOT SIMPLY A QUOTE TAIL-TO-TEETH UNQTE SUBSTITUTION AS WAS THE CASE WITH SEVERAL RECENT US ASSIGNMENTS OF COMBAT UNITS TO EUROPE. IT WILL CONSTITUTE A NET INCREASE IN US FORCES IN EUROPE, WHICH THEN WILL TOTAL SLIGHTLY OVER 300,000. (THIS TOTAL WILL NOT INCLUDE ANOTHER APPROXIMATELY 30,000 US NAVAL PERSONNEL AT SEA IN THE REGION.) THE INCREASE IS DESIGNED

TO IMPROVE THE READINESS AND EARLY COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THESE FORCES -- A MAJOR GOAL OF THE NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES APPROVED AT LAST MAY'S NATO SUMMIT. THIS ADDITION TO US FORCES WILL BE IN US ARMY UNITS IN EUROPE -- WHICH THEN WILL TOTAL OVER 210,000 -- AND WILL BE CARRIED OUTLARGELY BY RAISING THE MANNING LEVELS OF US ARMY UNITS NOW STATIONED IN EUROPE. (A MINOR PART OF THE INCREASE WILL RESULT FROM THE ADDITION OF NON-COMBAT SUPPORT UNITS.)

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-- THE INCREASE WILL BE DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO:

---- INCREASING THE MANNING LEVEL OF MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALIONS, OF ARMORED BATTALIONS AND OF DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY, ENGINEER, AND SUPPORT BATTALIONS. THIS WILL BRING THE PEACETIME AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF THESE UP CLOSE TO THEIR WARTIME AUTHORIZED LEVELS.

---- PROVIDING THE ADDITIONAL MANPOWER FOR OR REORGANIZATION OF COMBAT AVIATION UNITS, IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE ANTI-ARMOR ROLE AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH 210 UE COBRA-TOW HELICOPTERS.

---- TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF 8" AND 155 MM ARTILLERY TUBES BY THE EQUIVALENT OF NINE BATTERIES.

---- TO ACTIVATE DIVISIONAL MISSILE MAINTENANCE COMPANIES AND CHEMICAL DEFENSE COMPANIES.

-- THE INCREASES WILL BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 1979.

-- ALL OF THIS INCREASE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NATO

GUIDELINES AREA, AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ALLIANCE'S
POSITION ON THIS QUESTION -- WE HAVE ALWAYS RESERVED
THE RIGHT TO IMPROVE NATO FORCES IN THIS AREA PENDING
THE CONCLUSION OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014401

FOL RPT STATE 014401 SENT ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS, USNATO &
MADRID INFO MOSCOW, BELGRADE, PRAGUE, BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST,
SOFIA, WARSAW, STOCKHOLM & HELSINKI DTD 18 JAN 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L S
TATE 014401

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